

Minutes of the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission Meeting
April 8-9, 2010

Chairman Randy Kemink called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM CT at the Crossroads in Huron, South Dakota. Commissioners present were Kemink, Olson, Authier, Kessler, Knippling, McMahon, and John Cooper. Mert Clarkson was absent. Secretary Vonk was present along with staff, SDSU students, media, and public numbering about eighty. Kemink welcomed newly appointed John Cooper to the Commission and greeted the SDSU students and Professor Dan Hubbard to the proceedings.

Division of Administration

Action items:

Chairman Kemink requested corrections, additions, or approval of the March minutes. Motion by Authier with second by Olson TO APPROVE THE MARCH MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Kemink asked for any additional Commissioner salary days and none were claimed.

Director Chris Petersen presented the following license list requests for Commission action.

Recreational Springs Resort of Lead requested a list of the 2010 Spring Turkey license holders to send flyers with special room rates, contests, and to promote the full service restaurant. This would be at full fee.

Motion by Kessler with second by Cooper TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM RECREATIONAL SPRINGS RESORT AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Chuck Ross of Scattergun Lodge requested a list of the 2007 Preserve license holders to be used for marketing. This list would be at full fee. Discussion began with why Mr. Ross wanted the 2007 list and the license holders that have opted out since then. Director Petersen indicated license holders that have opted out since 2007 can be removed from the generated list.

Motion by Kessler with second by McMahon TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM CHUCK ROSS AND REMOVE ANY LICENSE HOLDERS THAT HAVE OPTED OUT SINCE 2007 FROM THE LIST PROVIDED TO CHUCK ROSS. Motion carried unanimously.

Janie Pitzl of Roy Lake Resort requested a list of nonresident waterfowl, nonresident fishing, and current turkey license holders to mail a brochure. This request is for 5,000 names and would be at full fee.

Motion by Authier with second by Knippling TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUESTS FROM JANIE PITZL OF ROY LAKE RESORT AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

PDT Pheasants-Robert Kleespie requested a list of Licensed Shooting Preserve/Operators to send a brochure promoting their business of raising pheasants. This would be at full fee.

Motion by Authier with second by Knippling TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM PDT PHEASANTS AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Twamley, President of SD Bowhunters, Inc. requested a list of the 2009 Archery Big Game license holders to solicit information from bow hunters regarding season dates and related topics regarding policy setting for SDBI. This would be at the reduced fee of \$100.

Motion by Knippling with second by Kessler TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM JIM TWAMLEY AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Kurt Hansen of Custer National Forest requested a list of license holder in the Spring Turkey Prairie Unit 36A37 Harding County to send out travel management maps for hunting this spring. It is also an effort to educate hunters and improve awareness of the changes to roads open for travel in the Custer National Forest. This would be at no fee.

Motion by Authier with second by Olson TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM KURT HANSON AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

The Huron Chamber and Visitors Bureau requested a list of small game hunters to mail a brochure inviting them to the Huron area to hunt pheasants. This would be at no fee.

Motion by Kessler with second by Cooper TO APPROVE THE LICENSE LIST REQUEST FROM THE HURON CHAMBER AND VISITORS BUREAU AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposals:

Director Petersen indicated currently there are 417 licensed agents that sell over-the-counter licenses such as small game, fishing, and combination licenses to resident and nonresident hunters in retail businesses across the state. Petersen included a 15-month historical summary of agents past due on payments by one, two, and three months indicating a need to establish guidelines and timelines for the remittance procedures with the Department and license agents. The recommended changes would remove obsolete language, define license agents, establish guidelines and timelines for all parties, establish use of Emergency Authorization licenses and its value, and update language on agent applications to meet the needs of the automated system.

Commissioner Cooper inquired if SD Retailers had an opportunity to comment on the changes. Director Petersen indicated they would be contacted should the Commission propose the changes.

1. Amend 41:02:01:07. License agents report of sales – Fees remitted, to remove obsolete language.
2. Amend 41:02:01:07. License agents report of sales – Fees remitted, to establish department timeline for distribution of invoices to license agents for previous month's sales to license agents, establish timeline for license agents' payment to department for fees collected, and define license fees
3. Create a new rule establishing the guidelines for disconnection and interest charges for license agents past due on payments owed to the department for license sales.
4. Create a new rule establishing the requirements of use of Emergency Authorization licenses, and establishing the value for lost or stolen Emergency Authorization licenses.
5. Define the term, Licensing Agent
6. Revise 41:02:01:03. Completion of license forms – Signatures, to update language of rule for filling out license applications. The revisions will incorporate the needs of the automated licensing system.

Motion by Kessler with second by Olson TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO LICENSING AGENTS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Petersen recommended changes providing additional clarification on fee rates for entities requesting lists from the Department and require Commission approval.

1. Amend 41:06:02:06. Fee for lists of license holders, to include subscription holders as a list type for the purpose of list requests.
2. Amend 41:06:02:06. Fee for lists of license holders, to establish the provision that governmental entities may obtain lists free of charge.
3. Amend 41:06:02:06. Fee for lists of license holders, to establish the provision that political parties and elected officials are required to pay full-fee charges to obtain license and subscription holder lists.

Motion by Kessler with second by Olson TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO LICENSE LISTS AS RECOMMENDED. Roll call vote: Authier-yes; Clarkson-absent; Cooper-yes; Kessler-yes; Knippling-no; McMahon-yes; Olson-yes; Kemink-yes. Motion carried with 6 yes votes and 1 no vote.

Information items:

Director Petersen presented the March 31 year to date counter license sales comparison with 2009. Petersen indicated in May of 2009 sales were down 8-10% and ended the year up 6-8%, and it looks as if April and May will recover some of the difference from the March report. Discussion included how ice conditions affect the winter sales.

Secretary Vonk reported the Governor's recommended budget for the Parks and Recreation Division was approved by Legislature and had no impact on for the 2011 budget year. However, the 2012 budget will be reduced by \$500,000 for the Parks Division. The bill to reinstate the CSP Playhouse lease was vetoed by the Governor; however, and the Legislature overrode the Governor's veto.

Open Forum Comments

Jim Shaffer indicated he raises and releases bobwhite quail along the Missouri River breaks. The released quail are to have a toe removed before they are six weeks old. He brought quail eggs to demonstrate how little the birds are and to imagine how tiny the toes are at hatching where it is easiest to catch and remove a toe or at five weeks old. He asked why clip the toe and if the requirement could be removed. Director Leif indicated this is a reasonable request and will review and revisit the issue next month. Commissioner Cooper expressed his support of Shaffer's desire to help manage the bobwhite quail population.

Ruben Leal from the Forest Service reference the April 5th letter from the Forest Service to Secretary Vonk requesting the Department no longer issue permits for dog training with horses on the grasslands. The Forest Service wishes to assume the responsibility for issuing the permits based on public comment indicating that some of those using horses for training dogs on the grasslands are commercial businesses.

Director Leif explained the dog training experience and guidelines for the permit. No training is allowed during the nesting season and is restricted to foot only training on public land following the nesting season. Horseback training is prohibited for commercial training, limited to Friday-Sunday in August and September, and only in the mornings. There have only been 30 permits available for horseback training of dogs. McMahon asked how GFP is involved due to the impact on the resource. Vonk stated the management of the grassland resource is under the US Forest Service.

Public Hearing began at 2:15 PM and concluded at 2:35 PM.

Finalizations

CSP Early Archery Elk Hunting Season 41:06:28

Chad Lehman presented the proposed changes with no changes from proposal and recapped data supporting the recommended changes for Commissioner Cooper.

1. Offer residents 5"Any Elk" licenses (5 licenses is a reduction of 3 from last year).

Motion by Olson with second by Kessler TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO CSP EARLY ARCHERY ELK HUNTING SEASON 41:06:28 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

CSP Late Archery Elk Hunting Season 41:06:48

Lehman presented the proposed changes with no change from proposal.

1. Offer residents 30 "Any Elk" licenses (30 licenses is a reduction of 20 licenses from last year).

Motion by Kessler with second by Knippling TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO CSP LATE ARCHERY ELK HUNTING SEASON 41:06: 48 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Special CSP Anterless Elk Hunting Season 41:06:47

Lehman presented the proposed changes with no recommended changes. Knippling indicated concern for the disappointed hunters and why have a season at all? Lehman indicated the five license would have a negligible affect on the herd, would promote limited opportunity, and more than five elk leave this area of the park anyway.

1. Offer residents 5"Anterless Elk" licenses (5 licenses is a reduction of 15 licenses from last year).

Motion by McMahon with second by Cooper TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO SPECIAL CUSTER STATE PARK ANTERLESS ELK HUNTING SEASON 41:06:47 AS PROPOSED. Roll call vote: Authier=yes; Clarkson-absent; Cooper=yes; Kessler-no; Knippling-no; McMahon=yes; Olson=yes; Kemink-no. Motion failed with 4 yes votes and 3 no votes. Motion requires 5 yes votes to finalize proposed changes.

Discussion continued regarding the hunters that have 20 years of preference points, closed season, database of preference points for when the season reopens, impact of harvest on the herd, and reconsideration of proposed changes.

Motion by Kessler with second by Knippling TO RECONSIDER PROPOSED CHANGES TO SPECIAL CSP ANTERLESS ELK HUNTING SEASON 41:06:47. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Offer residents 5"Anterless Elk" licenses (5 licenses is a reduction of 15 licenses from last year).

Motion by Kessler with second by Cooper TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO SPECIAL CUSTER STATE PARK ANTERLESS ELK HUNTING SEASON 41:06:47 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

CSP Elk (Any) Hunting Season 41:06:27

Lehman presented the proposed changes with no change from proposal.

1. Offer residents 21 "Any Elk" licenses (21 licenses is a reduction of 15 licenses from last year).

Motion by Authier with second by Olson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO CUSTER STATE PARK ANY ELK HUNTING SEASON 41:06:27 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

CSP Restrictions 41:06:07

Lehman presented the proposed changes with a recommended change to include the restriction of antelope hunting within 440 yards of any public access in CSP and to clarify language to allow the "any" deer or whitetail deer hunters eligibility to apply for the muzzleloader doe whitetail licenses.

Lehman addressed the comment from Mr. Martenmaas about disabled hunters by indicating those hunters should contact park law enforcement or office for assistance.

1. No person may hunt antelope within 440 yards of any public access road in CSP.
2. Add language to clarify first-choice unit licenses for CSP are not eligible for nine years but are eligible for muzzleloader whitetail doe tags.

Motion by Kessler with second by Knippling TO AMEND PROPOSAL TO CSP RESTRICTIONS AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Add 41:06:07:10. Hunting from roads restrictions.
 - a. No person may hunt elk or deer within 300 feet of any public access or paved access roadway within Custer State Park.
 - b. No person may hunt antelope within 440 yards of public access road or paved road located within the park.
 - c. No person may hunt any species within 300 feet of any occupied building in Custer State Park.
2. Under 41:06:07:02. Eligibility of past licenses.
 - a. Add "or any whitetail deer plus antlerless whitetail deer" to the rule.
 - b. Add language to clarify first-choice unit licenses for CSP are not eligible for nine years but are eligible for leftover muzzleloader whitetail doe tags.
3. Also, under 41:06:07:02. Eligibility of past licenses.
 - a. Add "A person who received a Custer State Park "any antelope" license in any of the preceding nine years may not apply for a license in that season.
4. Delete 41:06:07:02.01. Weighted preference system established.
 - a. Prior application preference covered in 41:06:01:10.

Motion by Kessler with second by McMahon TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO CUSTER STATE PARK RESTRICTIONS 41:06:07 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Archery Elk Hunting Season 41:06:43

Chief Kirschenmann and Chad Switzer presented the proposed changes including a change to correct the Unit AEE-H3A boundary.

1. Unit AEE-H3A: those portions of Custer and Fall River Counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming state line and U.S. Highway 16, then east along U.S. Highway 16 to the Custer State Park western boundary, then south along the Custer State Park western boundary and the Wind Cave National Park western boundary to U.S. Highway 385, then south along U.S. Highway 385 to State Highway 79, then south along State Highway 79 to the Cheyenne River, then west along the Cheyenne River to the South Dakota-Wyoming state line, then north along the state line to the point of beginning.

Motion by Kemink with second by Olson TO AMEND PROPOSAL WITH THE UNIT AEE-H3A BOUNDARY CHANGE AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Unit AEE-H3A: those portions of Custer and Fall River Counties within a line beginning at the junction of the South Dakota-Wyoming state line and U.S. Highway 16, then east along U.S. Highway 16 to the Custer State Park western boundary, then south along the Custer State Park western boundary and the Wind Cave National Park western boundary to U.S. Highway 385, then south along U.S. Highway 385 to State Highway 79, then south along State Highway 79 to the Cheyenne River, then west along the Cheyenne River to the South Dakota-Wyoming state line, then north along the state line to the point of beginning.
2. Adjust the number of licenses available from 114 "any elk" and 71 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 185 licenses) to 96 "any elk" and 49 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 145 licenses).

Motion by McMahon with second by Cooper TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO ARCHERY ELK HUNTING SEASON 41:06:43 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Black Hills Elk Hunting Season 41:06:26

Chief Kirschenmann presented the proposed changes with no change from proposal. Discussion on the number of antlerless tags, unit allocation, and depredation.

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 605 "any elk" and 760 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,365 licenses) to 495 "any elk" and 570 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 1,065 licenses).

Motion by Cooper with second by Kessler TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO BLACK HILLS ELK HUNTING SEASON 41:06:26 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Prairie Elk Hunting Season 41:06:59

Kirschenmann presented the proposed changes with no recommended changes and discussion was on unit allocation.

1. Adjust the number of licenses available from 45 "any elk" and 86 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 131 licenses) to 50 "any elk" and 86 "antlerless elk" licenses (total of 136 licenses).

Motion by Authier with second by Olson TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO PRAIRIE ELK HUNTING SEASON 41:06:59 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Black Hills Bighorn Sheep Hunting Season 41:06:56

Chad Switzer presented the proposed changes with a recommendation to adjust the start date to September 1st allowing additional opportunity. The data collected from collared sheep indicate they spend in September 59%, October 39%, November 19%, and December 29% of their time in South Dakota. Kanta indicated Wyoming offers only one bighorn sheep tag to hunters.

1. Adjust season start date from the first Saturday of October to September 1st.

Motion by Knippling with second by Kessler TO AMEND PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE SEASON STARTING DATE TO SEPTEMBER 1ST AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Adjust season start date from the first Saturday of October to September 1st.
2. Adjust season ending date from November 30th to December 31st. This recommended change would allow for a season from September 1st to December 31st.

Motion by Olson with second by Kessler TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO THE BLACK HILLS BIGHORN SHEEP HUNTING SEASON 41:06:56 AS AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Mourning Dove Hunting Season 41:06:40

Chad Switzer presented the proposed changes with no recommended changes to proposal.

1. Adjust season ending date from October 31 to November 9th. Current federal framework allows for a 70-day season.

Motion by Kessler with second by Knippling TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO MOURNING DOVE HUNTING SEASON 41:06:40 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Antelope Hunting Season 41:06:23

Switzer presented the proposed changes with no recommended changes from proposal.

1. Remove the conversion of any unsold or unfilled tags that convert to "doe/kid antelope" tags in units 15, 35, 49, and 53 during the West River deer season.
2. At the conclusion of the firearms antelope season, all unsold or unfilled tags would convert to "doe/kid" and would be valid for 9 consecutive days beginning on the Saturday following Christmas.

Motion by Authier with second by McMahon TO FINALIZE CHANGES TO ANTELOPE HUNTING SEASON 41:06:23 AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

Division of Parks and Recreation

Action items-Proposals:

Camping Units

Assistant Director Bob Schneider and Jeff VanMeeteren recommended adding "camper unit" to the fifteen-day limit for camping in the same state park area. The limitation allows staff to clean the site before the next camper and provides fairness of opportunity for all campers. VanMeeteren indicated customers have found a way to reserve campsites continuously in different family member's names resulting in the same camper unit remaining on a campsite for long periods of time.

1. **41:03:01:15. Camping in state park, state recreation area, and state lakeside use area allowed only in designated campgrounds – Fifteen-day limit.** A person or group may camp only in an area designated as a campground site. A No person or group may camp ~~for no more than fifteen consecutive days at~~, **nor may a camper unit occupy,** any state park, state recreation area, or state lakeside use area **for more than fifteen consecutive days** without written permission of a department representative. **For the purposes of this chapter, the term "camper unit" shall have the same definition as established in Chapter 41:03:04.**

Motion by Kessler with second by Olson TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO CAMPING UNITS AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Information items:

Schneider provided an update on spring flooding indicating there were no problems west river as cooler weather slowed the snow melt. Lake Oahe is near

full but should not experience problems due to high water boat ramps and shoreline protection constructed during the last high water cycle. Lake Francis Case should top out about May 1st at about 1365 leaving approximately one third of boat ramps out of service along with 6-8 campsites at North Point. The lake level should drop in June bringing facilities back to normal.

Oakwood Lakes had winter kill fish and a disposal site has been established for residents use. Lake Poinsett is over full and the ice is off, there was no damage to shoreline and buildings caused by the ice. Private cabin owners are sandbagging some cabins and no damage is expected to the state recreation area facilities. Docks have been installed on public boat ramps in northeast South Dakota. Some lake access sites have water over the parking lots. Bitter Lake and Blue Dog accesses are under water with water receding slowly.

Fisher Grove water levels peaked two weeks ago; under a contract, the adjacent golf course manages the state park including the mowing, collecting fees, selling park entrance licenses, etc. The park residence was sandbagged and kept dry. Other buildings had three feet of water in them. The day use area is now out of the water and there is lots of debris to clean up which will happen in about two weeks. Department of Corrections has committed inmates to assist the golf course and parks staff with clean up. No campground reservations are being taken until June 1st unless cleanup happens faster than anticipated. The bridge across the James River accessing the campground was inspected last year and will be inspected again this year.

Division of Wildlife

Action items- Proposals:

Archery Antelope Hunting Season

Chief Kirschenmann presented the season requirements according to current rule with no recommended changes and no action was taken by the Commission.

Archery Deer Hunting Season

Kirschenmann gave a handout showing the adult buck harvest in Black Hills counties with the changes made for the 2009 season and the reduction in harvest. There are no recommended changes to the archery deer season and no action was taken by the Commission.

Archery Restrictions

Kirschenmann and the wildlife law staff brought forward a recommendation to permit use of 2 inch mechanical broadheads and smaller for archery hunting due to advances in technology that provide more effective equipment especially for turkey hunting.

1. Amend 41:06:05:01 to permit mechanical broadheads 2" and smaller in cutting diameter to be used by archery hunters.

Motion by Knippling with second by Kessler TO PROPOSE THE USE OF 2 INCH OR SMALLER BROADHEADS FOR ARCHERY HUNTING AS PROPOSED. Motion carried unanimously.

General Muzzleloading Deer Hunting Season

Kirschenmann presented the current requirements and restrictions with no changes to current rule and no action was taken by the Commission.

Youth Deer Hunting Season

Chief Kirschenmann presented the current requirements and restrictions with no changes to current rule and no action was taken by the Commission.

Commission recessed at 4:29 PM and meeting will resume at 8:30 AM on Friday, April 9, 2010, in the same location. Meeting resumed at 8:36 AM, April 9th, with all Commissioners except Clarkson present. The SDSU students were present along with Secretary Vonk, staff, public, and media numbering approximately 20.

Nonresident Waterfowl Hunting Season

Chad Switzer presented the current rules for nonresident waterfowl licenses, units, and dates with no recommended changes and no action was taken by the Commission.

Tundra Swan Hunting Season

Switzer presented the current requirements and restrictions with no recommended changes and no action was taken by the Commission.

Canada Goose August Management Take

Switzer presented the current season information, requirements, and restrictions with a recommended change to allow an August Management take due to the increased spring population of 166,500 which is above the management goal of 80,000 to 90,000. The increased population brings depredation problems in both rural and urban areas of the state. The department been aggressive in dealing with the increased population and would like to utilize this tool to assist in controlling the resident goose population. This would have no affect on the number of days for the regular season and would not require a waterfowl stamp. The nine day season (August 14-22, 2010) would be for residents only, have a daily bag limit of 8 Canadian geese, with possession limit of 32 Canadian geese, in Brookings, Clark, Codington, Day, Duel, Hamlin, Grant, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, Marshall, Minnehaha, Moody, and Roberts Counties. Shooting hours and other restrictions are the same as during the Early Fall and Regular Canada Goose Seasons. Licensing requirements are the small game or combination license and the state migratory bird certification.

1. Amend 41:06:16 to include an August Management Take for the take of resident Canada geese as authorized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and defined in 50CFR part 21.61 of the Final Rule for the control of Resident Canada Geese.

Motion by Kessler with second by Olson TO PROPOSE THE CHANGE TO FOR AN AUGUST MANAGEMENT TAKE OF CANADA GEESE AS PRESENTED. Motion carried unanimously.

Dog Training

Kirschenmann presented the requirements and restrictions regarding dog training on public land including the 30 “dog training by horseback” permits. The recommended change comes at the request of the US Forest Service regarding the use of horses when training dogs. Ruben Leal brought the concern forward during the Public Forum comments and the Forest Service request was provided to the Commission. The Forest Service manages the resource on Buffalo Gap, Ft. Pierre, and Grand River National Grasslands and received complaints that commercial dog trainers are using horses while training dogs on the grasslands.

1. Amend 41:09:13:01.01 to remove the special allowance to use a horse for dog training on publicly owned land (i.e. Buffalo Gap, Ft. Pierre and Grand River National Grasslands) that are outside of the standard, statewide dog training regulations through special permits provided by the department and insert language for issuance of such permits with the government agency that holds land management authority.

Motion by McMahon with second by Authier TO PROPOSE CHANGES TO DOG TRAINING TO RETURN THE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE PERMIT FOR DOG TRAINING BY HORSEBACK TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCY AS RECOMMENDED. Motion carried unanimously.

Information items:

Paul Coughlin presented three properties that have been advertised and will be presented for approval at the May Commission meeting. These include 10 acres of Templer property in Day County for an addition to the Bitter Lake GPA; 600 acres of Willette property in Grant County; and 20 acres of Benight property for an addition to the Gay Simpson GPA in McPherson County.

The Region 3 Advisory Panel Report began with Arden Petersen giving a handout summarizing five meetings the Panel has held since its beginning in 2008. Petersen introduced RAP member Dick Behl of Scotland who shared he liked the opportunity to know more about GFP, how he could be involved, and his desire to give back to natural resources. He shared the purpose of the Panel indicating it is a discussion group and includes brainstorming, education, and advocacy. He touched on the many topics of discussion the Region 3 Panel has

been involved in and his desire to promote public knowledge about RAP to get additional public input to the members.

Assistant Director Emmett Keyser gave a power point presentation on IMPACT (Interpersonal Management Program and Communication Training). Keyser outlined the need for and creation of IMPACT, the partners, process, and status of the program. This is part of the 8-point communication plan to develop communications and outreach strategies. It will improve officer safety, agency image, and conflict resolution. The training DVD will be distributed to all partners this summer to begin implementation for law staff.

Fisheries Chief John Lott reported for Region 1 indicating that ice is off lakes and Angostura is receiving water but is not full, Tisdall Dam needs repair, trout stocking has begun, and fishing in Rapid City is good.

Cliff Stone reported Region 2 lakes have ice out with minimal winter kill. Lower Lake Oahe is still covered with ice as far north as Mobridge. Lake Francis Case is 5-6 feet above usual pool. Shore fishing has been good in Pierre, Chamberlain, and Big Bend when water is being released. A 15 pound 8 ounce walleye was caught, salmon are being caught on Oahe, and license sales have increased since Easter. There has been some flooding on White River and on the GPA. Woodruff Dam near Blunt was breached and needs to be reworked.

Arden Petersen reported Region 3 had high water and damage at Family Park due to an ice jam. The City of Sioux Falls is trying to get an estimate of damage and cost. The Family Fishing Park Dedication is scheduled for May 21st.

The small dam at Lake Iroquois flooded out, an assessment is underway. There was winterkill at Oakwood Lakes, Long Lake, Spirit Lake in Campbell County, and Twin Lakes in Sanborn County. High water has helped Lake Thompson and the boat access at the campground is open, it is hoped the lake will fill this spring.

The Klondike project with Iowa DNR and Rural Water System had the dam breach on the South Dakota side and approval from the Corp is needed to repair the dam until FEMA funding of 90% is secured to replace it with ripples.

Doug Alvine reported Region 4 ice is out on most lakes with some winter kill. The northern pike spawn has happened and staff is looking forward to a good walleye spawn in the Northeast.

The region has widespread flooding with many roads under water. Lake Poinsett is 4 feet above full and using a no wake restriction to minimize erosion of shoreline. Muskrats are playing havoc with township roads and 50 kill permits have been issued. Trapping of muskrats has been good.

Chad Switzer indicated the preliminary pheasant population is 2% higher than the ten year average. This past winter season will have higher mortality of pheasants, the standing corn and private land food plots were very helpful in providing food and cover during the long winter. The winter statewide sex ratio is 47 roosters to 100 hens after 1.6 million birds harvested in 2009

Switzer shared the 2009 grouse season harvested 40,000 birds and with the loss of habitat (CRP) the population may be down.

Mark Norton, Access Coordinator, gave a power point presentation on the Walk-In Area (WIA) Program and Controlled Hunting Access Program (CHAP). The two programs have 1,085 cooperators, more than 1.2 million acres of land available for hunting, and paid out over \$2 million to landowners in 2009. A 3-year hunter use survey is in progress regarding the actual use of Walk-In Areas to assist defining high use and low use areas and cost in relation to use. The survey may also help determine the long term habitat and access cost vs. the Walk-In Area cost, and retrieve other useful information.

Norton indicated CREP in the James River watershed have approximately 17,800 acres under contract or in process (the process takes about two months) providing year round hunting and fishing. The 15 year contracts require 40 or more acres of CRP and often brings in an additional 5% of access acres.

The Outdoor Campus update was given by Scott Simpson with photos of the construction site. The construction is going well even with muddy conditions. The Parks and Wildlife Foundation has raised more than \$600,000, Region 1 staff are holding a contest for the street name, the SD Health Dept is donating funds for snowshoes, and public presentations continue to raise awareness of the educational opportunities the Campus will provide. RFP are being developed for the audio-video plan and interpretive designs.

John Kanta reported public meetings about the mountain lion management plan have been held in eight locations with 330 people attending. Everyone attending the meeting completes a survey form and the meetings are well received. Comments indicate people want fewer lions and more deer and elk. Discussions include hound hunting, no season, and to eradicate the lions. Kanta extended an invitation to the Commissioners and everyone to attend the meetings in their area. Three more meetings are scheduled in Aberdeen, Winner, and Pierre.

The Commissioners received the book "Grouse of the Plains and Mountains", the second book of a three book series and the last book will be on pheasants and is scheduled to be released in 2011, the first book was on Turkeys.

Secretary Vonk shared with the Commission a concern that the US Coast Guard is implementing rules that require US Coast Guard certification for anyone (fishing guides) who receive money for services on the Missouri river system. The cost of the certification is more that \$1,000 with no direct contact from the Coast Guard to the Department about the rule. He is drafting a letter to the Coast Guard Admiral inquiring about the rule and to request an exception for SD fishing guides, which will be copied to our Congressional Delegation.

Vonk indicated a letter would be sent to Larry Steffen indicating there were no changes made to refuges at Mailshack and Okobojo Creek. He confirmed that Kessler and Cooper would continue researching the use of these areas.

Secretary Vonk shared he will be signing a marketing agreement with Tourism designed to encourage fishermen/women to purchase a fishing license. Studies show a fair number of anglers purchase a license only every three years and this would encourage them to purchase a license each year.

Vonk indicated there was a concern among grazing leaseholders on some of the Corp's take lands that GFP may cancel all grazing agreements, which is not the case. GFP staff has scheduled a meeting with the leaseholders and a letter will be drafted to elected officials and the Commission following the meeting.

Vonk added that Representative Hoffman introduced legislation to have two legislators appointed to the GFP Commission. Hoffmann withdrew the legislation and in discussion expressed a desire to improve communications and would like to meet with the Commission and visit about issues. This meeting may happen sometime this summer depending on interest.

USDA has scheduled three hearings this summer regarding public access and the Farm Bill.

Chairman Kemink appointed John Cooper to the Access Committee and Jim McMahon as the Commission representative on the Parks and Wildlife Foundation Board.

Motion by Olson with second by McMahon TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
Meeting adjourned at 11:57 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey R. Vonk, Department Secretary